



Smith Rock
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group study guide

LUKE

J E S U S F O R E V E R Y O N E

**For the week of
26th of April 2020**

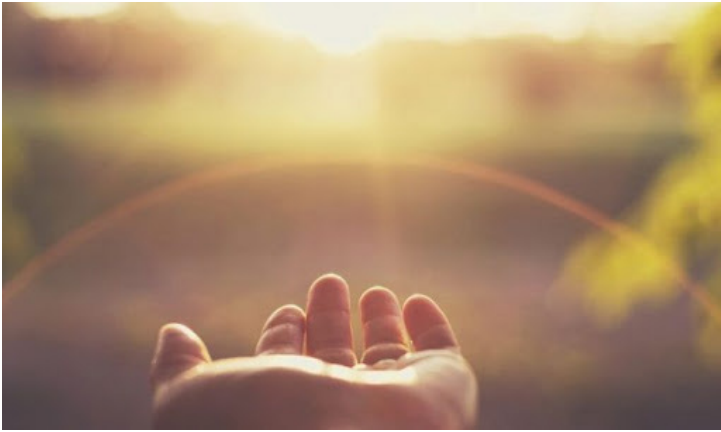


We are living a strange time where nearly all of "normal" life has been shut down due to the COVID 19. However now it seems we have flattened the curve and we are waiting for the authorities to say the word so we can get back to doing what it was before the virus invaded us.

What will it take for that to happen? That's the problem as no one is really sure about the exact nature of the virus and is frightened it might flare up again if we return to normal life too soon.

Many of us today are also desperate for God to "say the word" to us, to unlock us from whatever it is we are suffering from and return our lives to what we hoped them to be.

What does it take for God to "say the word" and do we always know when He has said it?



7 After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. 2 Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. 3 When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. 4 And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, 5 for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." 6 And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. 7 Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. 8 For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 9 When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that

followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." 10 And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

11 Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. 12 As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." 14 Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." 15 And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. 16 Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" 17 And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

Luke 7:1–17 (ESV)

Commentary

These two events follow on the heels of Jesus' sermon on the level ground where Jesus has announced the blessed life has a totally different appearance to the what the world says the blessed life looks like. Furthermore, Jesus says that those living the blessed life will be known by their fruits. These fruits include loving enemies, lending to those who you have no hope of return from, and not judging people by focusing on their minor faults while overlooking the major faults in your life. Those living the

ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF JESUS

1ST CENTURY AD



blessed life don't withhold mercy to others because they have prejudged them.

These are significant behavioural changes from the way the world dictates behaviour, but Jesus isn't peddling a self help scheme, these kinds of fruit can only be seen in lives where His words are embedded into hearts, thus causing the heart to change from which the new behaviour flows naturally. Jesus' final example is a house which the builder has taken the time to dig deep and lay the foundation on the rock so that when the inevitable flood comes it won't be washed away.

Jesus' words are stirring words, inspiring words, but they are also challenging words, and as Jesus returns to Capernaum He is challenged to match His words as a delegation of the towns elders approaches Him to come to the aid of a centurion whose has a sick slave who looks like he is going to die. Why should Jesus come to the aid of a centurion, a gentile, an oppressor and an enemy of Israel? The elders think Jesus needs to be persuaded that the centurion is "worthy" of His attention, and thus list the good things he has done for them.

Jesus goes with them, but as he nears the house the centurion sends some of his friends to tell Jesus not to come, and the message they give Jesus contradicts the Jewish elders assessment of him; he is not worthy for Jesus to come to his house.

However the centurion does not see this as a problem for Jesus healing his servant, because as a man under authority he recognises the supreme authority of Jesus, and Jesus only needs to "say the word" and the servant will be healed. Jesus is amazed at the centurion's faith, and tells the crowd following Him it is

most faith He has found in Israel, and it belongs to a gentile! That is the reason Jesus “says the word” just as the centurion has asked, because of his faith.

Next Jesus goes down the road to a town called Nain, where as Jesus and a large crowd following Him are about to enter through the town’s gate, they are met by a crowd coming out of the town, as the accompany a mourning widow who is going to bury her only son. Not only has the woman lost her son but she has lost her means of support, and is now on the threshold of becoming destitute and disenfranchised from her community.

But Jesus when He sees this is moved by compassion for her, and after telling her not to weep, stops the procession as He touches the stretcher and says the word to the man to “arise.” The man obeys Jesus and speaks.

Fear grips the crowd when they seen the dead man sit up and speak, and they glorify God for visiting His people through the healing of this “prophet.” Of course in a sense Jesus is a prophet, and yet He is much more than a prophet, and they could seen this with some closer examination of the truth.

In the Old Testament the prophet Elijah raises a widow’s dead son from the dead, but He has to pray and ask God to “say the word,” whereas in this instance Jesus doesn’t have to ask anyone; He is God and He “says the word” directly to the dead man who has no alternative but to obey.

Group Study

Open the group with prayer and discuss how you have used your application from last week's study in your life, and what you have learned from it.

Describe a time when you have had to wait for someone to "say the word." How easy was the wait?

What were you tempted to do instead of waiting?

Are you waiting for someone to "say the word to you today?"

What about God? What words would you like Him to say to you now?

On the basis of whose "worthiness" should we approach God?

Read Luke 15:11-24

On what basis did the younger son return to his father?

What way did the father show what he thought of his son's worth?

How has our heavenly Father shown what He thinks of our worth?

In verse 20 describe how the Father's heart was towards His son.

How is the Lord's heart to us?

Who does the Lord have compassion on?

Read Mark 6:30- 42

What is the difference in attitude between Jesus towards the crowd and His disciples? (The key word is in V 34).

How can we show compassion to the world around us?

Who told you about Jesus?

Who can you tell about Jesus this week?

Personal study time

Read the following passage where Mary Magdalene goes out of the city to anoint Jesus' body for burial but instead finds the tomb empty. Desperately she searches for someone to "say the word" where she can find Jesus. Using the REAP method reflect on what word Jesus spoke to her and how it surpassed any word Mary was hoping to hear.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' " 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

John 20:11–18 (ESV)

Reflection

Lined area for reflection notes.

REAP Method of studying Scripture

READ

Find the passages for today's reading in the Bible Reading Plan. Read the passages with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction, and correction (2 Timothy 3:16). Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Spend some time reflecting and writing about what you've read. Write down one or two of the key verses that stuck out to you. Ask yourself these questions and write down your thoughts:

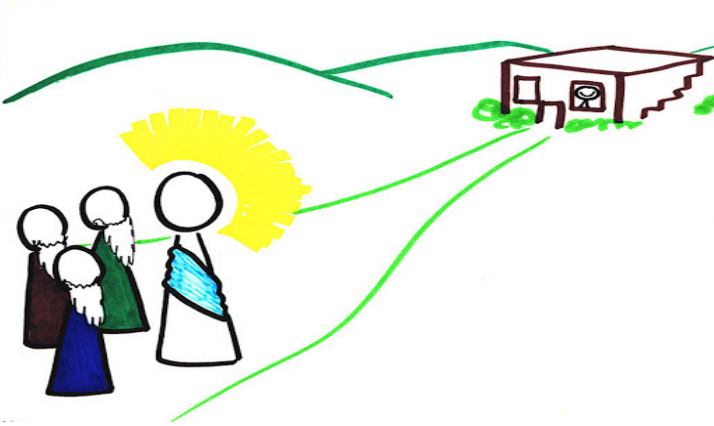
- * What is going on in the passage?
- * Who is writing and whom is he writing to?
- * When was the author writing?
- * What are the circumstances that the author is addressing?
- * Does the writer mention anything that might indicate his purpose or intent?
- * How do you think the author wants his audience to respond?

APPLY

After examining the passage, apply the text to your own life. Ask yourself these questions:

- * What is God's word for me from this passage?
- * How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

KIDS CORNER



The Compassion of Christ

1. Who do you know who really cares about other people?

Some people show a lot of compassion for others. When they see someone fall down, they're the first to help them up. When they hear someone getting made fun of, they feel sad instead of joining the laughter. Compassion is refusing to ignore someone else's pain or trouble and truly caring about them. Although we can see this beautiful characteristic in those around us, there is someone who has shown more compassion than anyone else. Jesus has. He is the one who always saw, always understood, and always cared. Just like He showed compassion for the Centurion and his servant, or for the dead man and his desperate mother, Jesus cared about every individual He met and every suffering that they felt.

When we read the Bible, we can easily see Jesus' deep love and concern for people. Wherever He went, His heart broke for the helpless and the hurting. But His compassion for the world didn't stop when He went back to heaven. Jesus never changes, and neither does His compassion. He still sees every person on the planet, He still understands our hardships, and He still truly, deeply cares for us. It's comforting to know that no matter what we go through, there will always be someone we can turn to who cares. And whenever we hear about bad things happening to people, we can trust and remember that Jesus has compassion for them more than anyone.

2. How does knowing how much Jesus cares make you feel?

